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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact:**

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**Archangel Raphael's Mission partners with Rutgers HIPHOP and Faith Leaders to Launch NJs First Fleet of Mobile Handwashing Stations**

**New Brunswick, NJ, Sunday, May 10, 2020** -- On Mother's Day, Archangel Raphael's Mission, in partnership with: Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Homeless and Indigent Populations Health Outreach Program (HIPHOP), Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Ethnos New Brunswick, the United Methodist Church at New Brunswick, and American Reentry Initiative launched the states first mobile handwashing station; now serving daily at the United Methodist Church located at 323 George Street in conjunction with their feeding program. Currently, this location will provide hygiene access (mobile hand-washing stations), care packages, health education, free masks, and more from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.



The coalition was brought together in response to the public health implications of city-wide closures. "These closures mean a lot more to underserved populations in our community" shared ARM Co-Director Kelsey Lynch, who also serves as a frontline nurse in an NYC COVID Unit, "restaurants, shops, and other local small business are a primary source for hygiene access." Many of us have recently been confronted by a lack of hygiene services. Things once taken for granted, like haircuts - a service the charity provides during ordinary times- is something we all had to live without for the past few weeks.

COVID-19 has a shockingly high death rate for both elderly individuals and those with chronic pre-existing health conditions. This makes the homeless population one of the most at-risk groups, with the mean age of single adults being about 55. In addition, they also have much greater rates of chronic health issues than the general public. Recent data studies released by the University of Pennsylvania have shown that for cases involving exposure to COVID-19, the homeless have higher rates of



hospitalization, critical care, and fatality than that of the general population. "It is critical that preventive measures are taken to protect our vulnerable populations who cannot wash their hands for 20 seconds as we recommend to everyone" advised Dr. Karen Lin, faculty advisor of HIPHOP-Promise Clinic and the professor of Family Medicine and Community Health of RWJMS - who is also among the physicians taking care of COVID patients at RWJ University Hospital - New Brunswick. "We are currently at work placing the next five locations around the city; prioritizing sites of service, areas of congregation, and locations that are geographically diverse from each other."

To continue supporting a daily outreach across the city, the coalition is looking for able-bodied volunteers, hand-sewn masks, and care packs. You can sign up to volunteer or donate at [www.arm.gives/covid](http://www.arm.gives/covid)

#### **About Archangel Raphael's Mission:**

Archangel Raphael's Mission (ARM) was founded in 2014 as a group effort to do more in our community. Our founders collectively came to realize that the difference in living conditions and opportunities between themselves and the wealthiest in the world was insignificant compared to the difference between themselves and some people living in their own city. In response to this, the ARM team's current mission is to provide health and hygiene services to those who need it. ARM believes that no one should have to live without these basic necessities. Dignity, Health, and Mobility are the three values that drive our team.

#### **About RWJMS HIPHOP:**

The Homeless and Indigent Population Health Outreach Project was established in 1992 as the community service arm of the American Medical Student Association at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS). Jamie Reedy and Jeff Brenner, two medical students in the Class of 1995, initiated the project in response to the pressing health needs of the Greater New Brunswick area and the lack of opportunities for students to engage in community service. HIPHOP currently receives financial support from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Dean's Office, program fundraising events and private donations. In 2016 HIPHOP has evolved into an umbrella program with three major initiatives: Community Health Initiative (CHI), Local Interdisciplinary Care Collaborative (LINC) and Promise Clinic.

#### **About The United Methodist Church at New Brunswick:**

THE UMC is a Wesleyan Christian community that can trace its roots in New Brunswick to as early as 1800. The current sanctuary is located at 323 George Street across from the Heldrich Hotel. Throughout the COVID crisis Pastors Cynthia Stouffer and Joseph Jueng have been running an online ministry for parishioners as well as a daily dinner outreach service in partnership with several local restaurants.



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Sources (Not part of press release):

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  - b. Federal Bill - Parts on homeless aid  
<https://endhomelessness.org/whats-in-the-coronavirus-bill-for-homelessness/>
2. Guidelines on How to Get Funds from Emergency Service Grant (ESG)
  - a. <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Eligible-ESG-Program-Costs-for-Infectious-Disease-Preparedness.pdf>